

from the same high school. Judy was a distinguished educator, with degrees from Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. She was a devoted mother of four sons and grandmother of five. Additionally, she is survived by her father, two sisters, and her brother.

Judy had great zest for life. She was a giving and warm person, and she will be truly missed.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 9, the Voting Rights Reauthorization Act.

In a Nation where children are taught at the earliest age that every citizen has a right to vote, it would be comforting to know that the last vestiges of voter discrimination had been swept away by the Voting Rights Act.

But the facts paint a much different and unsettling picture. Sadly, African Americans and other minorities continue to face calculated and determined efforts to prevent them from exercising their fundamental democratic rights. That is why extension of key expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act is critical.

Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is a foundation of democracy, and the Voting Rights Act provides the legal basis to protect the rights of all Americans. It is my hope that this body will do the right thing and not allow weakening amendments that would undermine the effectiveness of this historical voter act to be passed.

LINE ITEM VETO

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans understand that fiscal restraint is not an option. It is a necessity.

Since 1991, Federal spending on special-interest projects has increased by 900 percent. It is interesting just in the last emergency spending bill we passed out of this Congress, there is \$38 million in oyster research money. Now, I certainly like oysters. I think they are great whether they are raw or steamed or even fried. I am Southern, so fried oysters are great. But I do not think the Federal Government should be spending \$38 million.

That is why I support the Presidential line item veto, and I think it is important that the President have the authority to root out those wasteful spending projects and make sure that pork-barrel spending does not continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative will make Congress more accountable and help us eliminate the government glut-

tony that plagues our current budget process.

HOUSE GOP PLANS TO DISMANTLE SOCIAL SECURITY AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the motto, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Last year the White House and congressional Republicans failed in their efforts to privatize Social Security. Democrats stood united in defending the program, and the American people saw the privatization effort for what it was, a dismantling of the Social Security safety net that has provided millions of seniors real independence in their retirement years.

The American people were clear with Washington Republicans: Keep your hands off our Social Security. We thought they had gotten the message last year. Now, however, it appears that House Republicans want the privatization back on the table. Earlier this month the man most likely to lead the Republicans' Ways and Means Committee next year says it should be their top priority if they retain control of Congress to privatize Social Security.

Is the Republican majority in this House really that out of touch? The American people have already rejected their risky privatization plan. Instead of dismantling a critical safety net for millions of Americans, House Republicans should join the Democrats in strengthening Social Security for the future. The time has come to protect Social Security.

LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO

(Mr. HENSARLING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Legislative Line Item Veto Act. It provides a budget savings tool that almost every governor in the Nation already possesses. It will enable the President to identify questionable and wasteful earmark projects that have been slipped into spending bills so that Congress can vote separately on their merits.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, at a time of war, historic national debt, and record high tax revenues, it doesn't seem too much to ask that legislators show a little bit more accountability on how the people's money is spent. Just last month the Social Security and Medicare trustees reported that both Social Security and Medicare are going broke sooner than expected, and, thanks to Democrats' stonewalling, \$2 trillion have been added in unfunded obligations.

We must have some fiscal restraint. The line item veto will help pull back

the curtain on the earmarking process, which some have termed the gateway drug to spending addiction. By requiring specific votes, it will make it harder for Congress to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on railroads to nowhere, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and indoor rain forests.

Let us enact the line item veto.

CONGRATULATING THE CAROLINA HURRICANES

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to congratulate the Carolina Hurricanes for winning the most storied trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup. The Hurricanes defeated the Edmonton Oilers in game seven to win the first Stanley Cup and the first professional league sporting title for any North Carolina team. The Hurricanes exemplify what is great about professional sports: teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In addition to congratulating the players, coaches and the Hurricanes organization, I would also like to congratulate all the team's fans, the Caniacs. When the Hurricanes first arrived in North Carolina in 1997, skeptics across North America really thought that a Southern State could not support a hockey team. Well, we certainly have proven them wrong. The excitement that the team's fans displayed throughout every game of the playoffs shows that folks in basketball country love our hockey team. It may be shocking to our cold weather natives, but North Carolina won the cup. Hockey has long been thought of as a national sport to our neighbors to the North, but now it is the sport of the good old North State.

Congratulations, Canes.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of effective, fair, and secure immigration reform, not the amnesty plan passed by the Senate this month.

The Senate plan allows millions of illegal immigrants to get a green card and a path to citizenship. Mr. Speaker, let me ask you, what does this say to all the law-abiding people patiently waiting to become American citizens? It says they should have sneaked into our country and ignored our immigration laws like everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, there is a better way to achieve meaningful immigration reform, and I am committed to passing the right kind of bill. We need to secure our borders first; give businesses a fail-safe way to ensure the workers that they hire are legal; and above all,